

Our Heritage

It is the month of exhibitions—the month when the people of Western Canada meet to wonder afresh at the marvels of their own growth, when the products of the field, the forest and the mine are brought side by side with the products of the shop, the mill and the factory, when town and country meet in friendly admiration of each other's power and progress, when there is a common holiday in which rich and poor, old and young, grave and gay, delight themselves in innocent amusement or edify themselves by serious contemplations of their country's greatness and glory.

It is not to be wondered at that people grow enthusiastic as they consider what this country has to offer. It contains nearly 4,000,000 square miles of territory; is larger than the United States; 18 times as large as Germany, or 33 times as large as Italy. It is in area, one-third of the British Empire. And it is rich in forests, mines and water-stretches. More than that, it is the grain belt of the world. Bordered by three oceans, it stretches 3,500 miles from east to west, and 1,400 miles from the boundary line to the Arctic. In this land there is possible for cultivation, an area of 370,000,000 acres. The amount of forest land, mineral bearing rock, of coal belt, no one yet knows, for we are only beginning to realize what there is concealed in the fastnesses of the mountains or beneath the prairie soil. The power in the streams, in the natural gas, in the petroleum fields, is yet barely suspected. It is all waiting here for the daring and the enthusiasm of men who have the will to believe. Those who have already believed, have made great conquests. In agriculture, mining, forestry, manufacture, it has been over and over again the same story. At exhibition time this story is told and retold to those who come to learn and to profit.

It does any one good to consider the productions of his own land. The field crop of a single year is valued at about \$600,000,000. It has more than doubled in ten years. Canada now ranks fifth in the world production of wheat and third in the production of oats. The value of the roots and fodder for a year is estimated at \$200,000,000. The 600,000 farmers of the country keep the railways and the flour mills constantly busy. In a single year the capitalization of milling plants increased by \$24,000,000. The output of the mills will supply with flour a population five times as great as that of the Dominion.

The dairy industry is quite as remarkable. This yields over \$100,000,000 a year. The 4,000 creameries and cheese factories do a thriving trade.

The live stock held in the country is valued at \$600,000,000. The production of the mines for a year is \$120,000,000. The fisheries yield \$30,000,000. The forest production is \$80,000,000.

It is not a contemplation of these resources so much as a contemplation of growth and actual trade conditions that awakens real en-

thusiasm. The bank clearings for 18 cities amounted last year to over ten billion dollars. The amount borrowed for investment exceeded \$200,000,000; the manufactured products for a year have passed the billion mark; the building operations have come close to \$150,000,000. The revenue has exceeded \$200,000,000.

Above all, the increase in population in ten years has been 32 per cent. Of course, the great increase has been in the Western provinces—in Alberta, 411 per cent; in Saskatchewan, 439 per cent; in Manitoba, 78 per cent; in British Columbia, 183 per cent.

The progress of Canada is linked with railroad extension. At Confederation the earnings for a year were \$12,000,000, now

GIVE US MEN!

JOSIAH G. HOLLAND

God give us men!—A time like this demands

Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands;

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;

Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy,

Men who possess opinions and a will;

Men who have honor and will not lie,

Men who can stand before a demagogue

And scorn his treacherous flatteries without winking,

Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog

In public duty and in private thinking.

they approximate \$200,000,000. Then the mileage was less than 2,500 miles, now it is more than 25,000. Indeed counting in double tracking and sidings it is about 32,000. Other figures showing development since Confederation are quite as remarkable. The revenue has increased from 14 millions to about 200 millions. Mineral production from \$10,000,000 to \$120,000,000, total trade from 131 millions to 900 millions. Exports have increased six-fold; imports seven-fold; custom duties ten-fold; manufacturing capital eleven-fold.

Nor has the advance been all on the side of trade and commerce. Canada has schools, colleges, universities. Eighty-five per cent of the people over five years of age can read—not such a bad showing, when so many are foreign-born. In every province there are proofs of progress. In Saskatchewan and Alberta a new school is organized every day. In Manitoba schools are being consolidated every month. Agricultural education is fos-

tered in all three provinces, although the methods followed differ widely. This is a proof of the power of the people to adapt themselves to varying conditions.

It would be easy to multiply facts with regard to Canada's condition and prospects. None of these could be more illuminating than the figures relating to Western Canada.

In 1911 the crops were estimated at \$300,000,000. This is marvellous when it is remembered that thirty-five years ago the production was only a few thousand bushels. In 1901 there were 71 banks in the three Western Provinces; today there are 800. In ten years the population in Western cities has increased from one hundred and fifty per cent to ten thousand per cent. Western Canada now yields between 40 per cent and 50 per cent of the total field crop of Canada. It grows 90 per cent of the wheat. This phenomenal expansion illustrates the rate at which settlement is progressing. It has trebled in ten years. And as to the future—who can say what we shall be when Alberta begins to mine its 90 billion tons of coal, and Saskatchewan its 20 billions; when the water-way connecting Edmonton and Winnipeg is opened, and when instead of having one-twentieth of arable land under cultivation it is all productive?

It is almost needless to say there are difficulties and problems. These will be solved, however, for if there is one thing in which the western spirit prides itself, it is on the overcoming of obstacles.

First there is the problem of the people. Forty nationalities, fifty languages, creeds and sects without number. The one great remedy is the public school. Towards this end the Dominion Government must aid the provinces. It was the immigration policy of the Dominion that hived these non-English people in large constituencies. It was the Dominion Government that imposed the burden on the Western Provinces. The Dominion must now come to the rescue.

The second problem is that of wealth-distribution. It is recognized that owing to our method of taxation, our tariff, our railway rates, our speculation, and the number of middlemen engaged in distribution of products, that life is unfair to the day-worker and to the man who takes wealth from the soil. Some of the things that the men of Western Canada are studying and which they are bound to remedy are these: They will get free trade with the mother land, they will get cheaper freight rates, they will get more direct dealing between the original producer and the consumer, they will find a way whereby it will not be so profitable for men to engage in real estate speculation, they will stop the enormous traffic in drink.

But these are only sample problems. The West is equal to them and to all others that may arise. They are not insuperable. They make life worth living. We have the land, the climate, the people. We have done well in the years gone by—we shall do infinitely better in years to come if we only have the will to succeed.